

County Judge Executive

Shane Gabbard
County Judge Executive



Paid for by Shane Gabbard

State Representative 89th District

Robert Goforth
State Rep. 89th District



Paid for by Robert Goforth

Jackson County Jailer

Brian Gabbard
County Jailer



Paid for by Brian Gabbard

Mayor of McKee

Michael Stidham
McKee Mayor



Paid for by Michael Stidham

John Tompkins
McKee Mayor



Paid for by John Tompkins

Meet the Candidates

Election time is here again! If you're a candidate and would like to add your name and photo to our Meet the Candidates page, please contact us at 606-287-8528, sue@thejacksoncountytimes.com, or stop by our offices at 17 Lakewood Dr. in McKee.

Beshear: Report Election Violations to Attorney General's Hotline

FRANKFORT, KY. (Oct. 30, 2018) – Attorney General Andy Beshear is asking Kentuckians to call his office's Election Law Violations Hotline to report violations of Kentucky's election laws.

As voters prepare to head to the polls, Beshear said the Office of the Attorney General's hotline – 800-328-VOTE (8683) – is available during regular business hours and open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Eastern time) on Election Day, Nov. 6, 2018.

"Kentuckians who witnesses election irregularities or possible election law violations should contact our office immediately," Beshear said. "If you see something, say something. It only takes a call to my office to obtain assistance and each report receives a careful review from an investigator."

By law, Beshear's office has jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute election law violations.

On Election Day, investigators from the Attorney General's Office are located throughout the state and can immediately respond to complaints.

Beshear's office coordinates election monitoring with the State Board of Elections, Secretary of State's Office, Kentucky State Police, U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI, and Beshear's staff reviews complaints and, when appropriate, refers them for further action.

Beshear's office will provide public hotline updates during Tuesday's election via a dedicated webpage – ag.ky.gov and through social media @kyoag on Twitter and Facebook.

The updates will include the number and types of complaints received on the hotline leading up to Tuesday's General Election.

The Office of the Attorney General, by law, cannot provide details regarding specific complaints or possible pending investigations.

Beshear also reminds Kentuckians to be wary of voter registration and absentee ballot voting scams, which have been reported throughout the country.

Beshear issued a scam alert in October to help Kentuckians avoid providing their personal information over the phone to a scammer who claims he or she can help Kentuckians register to vote or vote by absentee ballot.

Beshear said Kentuckians cannot register to vote over the phone and that the deadline to register to vote in Kentucky for the Nov. 6, 2018, election was Oct. 9.

For future election cycles, Beshear urges Kentuckians to visit the Kentucky State Board of Elections website for systematic instructions and registration options, including submitting a form online, through the mail or in person at a county clerk's office.

If eligible, Kentuckians may cast an absentee ballot by mail or in the county clerk's office before Election Day. According to the state's website, absentee ballots can only be obtained by contacting the county clerk's office.

If Kentuckians are receiving these scam calls, they should report them to Beshear's office via an online form.

In-Person Absentee Voting Open for Ky. General Election

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 22, 2018) – Absentee voting in-person in county clerks' offices is now open statewide for Kentucky's Nov. 6 General Election, Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes announced Monday.

"Voters who are not able to vote at the polls on Election Day for various reasons can vote absentee before Nov. 6," said Grimes, Kentucky's chief election official. "Thank you to the many counties who have already opened their offices and are allowing voters to cast early absentee ballots. I encourage all Kentucky voters who cannot make it to the polls on Election Day to utilize our absentee process, if you are eligible, and make your voice heard."

- To be qualified to vote by in-person absentee ballot, you must be:
- Out of the county on election day;
 - Advanced in age, disabled, or ill;
 - Military, their Dependents, or an Overseas Citizen;
 - Military personnel confined to base and learn of your confinement within seven days or less of an election;
 - Student or resident who temporarily resides outside of the county;
 - Voter or the spouse of a voter who has surgery scheduled that will require hospitalization on Election Day;
 - Pregnant woman in third trimester;
 - Or an election official.

Voters may apply to vote an absentee ballot in-person by appearing at their county clerk's office. Check with the county clerk regarding business hours. Some county clerk offices are open on Saturdays before Election Day.

Voters who do not qualify to vote absentee in-person may be eligible to vote absentee by mail. Applications for mail-in absentee ballots must be received by the clerk's office no later than Oct. 30. The completed absentee ballot must be returned by mail and received by the county clerk by 6 p.m. local time on Election Day.

Don't Let the Flu Catch Up With You

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 26, 2018) – The Department for Public Health (DPH), within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, is reminding Kentuckians to get vaccinated against the flu.

"Getting the flu can be debilitating and sometimes life-threatening," said Jeffrey Howard, M.D., commissioner of DPH. "Vaccination is the best tool we have to prevent the flu and it is also extremely important to take simple preventive steps to avoid the flu and other illnesses that tend to circulate at this time of year – wash your hands frequently, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze and stay home when you're sick."

DPH officials report weekly influenza activity to the CDC as part of statewide flu surveillance efforts. The weekly report is located online at <https://healthalerts.ky.gov/Pages/FluActivity.aspx> will be updated by noon each Friday. Kentucky currently is reporting 28 laboratory-confirmed cases of flu and one influenza-related death. The state flu activity level is currently classified as "sporadic". The report consists of laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza that are defined by molecular virus testing and positive virus culture test results. Rapid positive influenza tests are not included in this report, but are used as an indicator of flu-like illness circulating across the state.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends flu vaccine for all individuals six months of age and older. People who are strongly encouraged to receive the flu vaccine because they may be at higher risk for complications or negative consequences include:

- Children age six months through 59 months;
- Women who are or will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- Persons 50 years of age or older;
- Persons with extreme obesity (Body Mass Index of 40 or greater);
- Persons aged six months and older with chronic health problems;
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities;
- Household contacts (including children) and caregivers of children aged ≤59 months (i.e., aged aged ≥50 years);
- Household contacts and caregivers or people who live with a person at high-risk for complications from the flu; and
- Health care workers, including physicians, nurses, and other workers in inpatient and outpatient-care settings, medical emergency-response workers (e.g., paramedics and emergency medical technicians), employees of nursing home and long-term care facilities who have contact with patients or residents, and students in these professions who will have contact with patients.

Adequate supplies of flu vaccine are expected to be available for this year's flu season. Vaccination can be given any time during the flu season, but providers are encouraged to administer the vaccine as soon as possible.

During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 influenza seasons, ACIP recommended that Flu Mist not be used because of concerns about low effectiveness against influenza A (H1N1). However, ACIP recommends that FluMist once again be an option for vaccination during the 2018-2019 influenza season for persons for whom it is age-appropriate and who have no medical contraindications. The change in recommendation is a result of the influenza A (H1N1) strain being changed in the current FluMist formulation.

Due to the timing of the decision by the ACIP regarding use of FluMist, the Kentucky Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) will not be offering FluMist for VFC or KCHIP patients during the 2018-2019 influenza season. However, some private providers will offer FluMist this season for their patients.

The flu vaccine is especially important in light of the severe season experienced last year across the U.S. The CDC reports that more than 900,000 flu-related hospitalizations occurred and more than 80,000 people died as a result of flu. In Kentucky there were 333 flu-related deaths, 5 of which were pediatric. Of the pediatric flu deaths reported in last year's season, more than one-third of these occurred among healthy children between the ages of 6 months and 4 years.

It is especially important for pregnant women to be vaccinated before or during pregnancy. Antibodies cross the placenta and provide immunity to infants up to 6 months of age, when the infant is eligible to receive their dose of flu vaccine.

DPH relies on sites such as doctors' offices, hospitals and health departments to help track the level of influenza activity in the state and to identify which strains of the flu are circulating in Kentucky. These voluntary sites collect data and report influenza-like illness (ILI) cases according to age groups each week. This sampling represents only a small percentage of influenza cases for the state, but contributes to the ongoing assessment of flu activity in the Commonwealth and helps determine the weekly level of flu activity.

Infection with the flu virus can cause fever, headache, cough, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing and body aches. Flu can be very contagious. For more information on influenza or the availability of flu vaccine, Kentuckians should contact their primary care medical provider or local health department. Influenza information is also available online at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>.